

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7384

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 3178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ID MY RP

SUBJ: ALLEGED GOM-GOI DIFFERENCE ON ISLAMIC FOREIGN
MINISTERS' RESOLUTION ON SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

SUMMARY: PRESS REPORT THAT GOI FAVORED AND GOM OPPOSED
INCLUSION OF PHRASE "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL
SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY OF THE PHILIPPINES," IN THE
ISLAMIC CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES
PROBLEM IS NOT CORRECT. MALAYSIA AND INDONESIA WERE FIRM
IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO ANYTHING SUGGESTING SUPPORT OF THE
MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT DEMAND FOR INDEPENDENCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE FINAL STAGES OF THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN
MINISTERS' CONFERENCE WE HAD FROM PRESS SOURCES A
REPORT OF INDONESIAN AND MALAYSIAN DIFFERENCES OVER THE
WORDING IN PARAGREPH 18 OF RESOLUTION 18 ON THE
SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES WHICH CALLED FOR POLITICAL
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NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOP AND MUSLIM LEADERS INCLUDING

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT. MALAYSIA, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, OPPOSED THE INCLUSION OF THE PHRASE "WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY OF THE PHILIPPINES" AS ADVOCATED BY INDONESIA. THIS STORY APPEARED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES SCHANBERG ACCOUNT OF THE CONFERENCE WHICH WAS SUMMARIZED IN JUNE 27 EAST ASIA PRESS SUMMARY (STATE 129266).

2. I WENT TO SEE INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR SOEPARDJO (A MEMBER OF HIS COUNTRY'S DELEGATION) AND TAN SRI ZAITON IBRAHIM, FOREIGN OFFICE SECRETARY GENERAL AND LEADER OF GOM DELEGATION, TO CHECK OUT THIS STORY. SOEPARDJO SAID IT WAS NOT CORRECT. THE MALAYSIANS AND INDONESIANS, SUPPORTED BY THE EGYPTIANS AND A NUMBER OF ARAB DELEGATES WERE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE SECESSIONIST OBJECTIVES OF THE MNLF. THE GOI AND GOM COOPERATED CLOSELY ON THE LANGUAGE OF RESOLUTION 18.

3. ZAITON PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS. THE INDONESIANS, HE SAID, WERE NOT HAPPY WITH THE PHRASE "INCLUDING THE MNLF." THEY ARGUED THAT THIS MIGHT IMPLY SUPPORT OF THE FRONT'S SECESSIONIST AIMS. THE MALAYSIANS SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT MARCOS TALK TO ALL ELEMENTS AND THAT SPECIFIC MENTION OF THE MNLF, THE GROUP DOING THE FIGHTING, WAS ESSENTIAL. ZAITON SAID HE PROPOSED THE PHRASE ON PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT NO ENDORSEMENT OF SECESSION WAS IMPLIED. THE INDONESIANS ACCEPTED THIS SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY AFTER IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THERE WAS GENERAL CONFERENCE SUPPORT FOR THIS WORDING.

4. ZAITON WENT ON TO CONFIRM THAT NOT EVEN THE LIBYANS SUPPORTED THE MNLF DEMAND FOR A SEPARATE STATE, AND THAT LEADERS OF THE MOVEMENT WHO HAD BEEN PRESENT IN KUALA LUMPUR DURING THE CONFERENCE WERE MADE QUITE AWARE THAT THE ISLAMIC NATIONS WOULD NOT BACK SUCH A CLAIM. UNDERHILL

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